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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: SMITH, Carl K. et al.

Group Art Unit: N/A

Serial No.: 09/763,239

Examiner: N/A

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Atty. Dkt. No.: 11836.0704.NPUS00
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Filed: February 15, 2001

For: SHALE-STABILIZING ADDITIVES

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
37 C.F.R. 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date below:

Date

Signature

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications, and other materials and information which they are aware of and which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose. These items have been listed on PTO FORM 1449 of which there are 2 pages enclosed herewith in accordance with the provisions in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure §§ 609 and 707.05(b). Copies of each of the listed items are enclosed.

It is respectfully requested that the listed items be considered in the examination of the this application and identified on the list of references cited on the patent issuing on this application. Applicants further request that an initialed copy of the enclosed FORM 1449 be entered into the application file wrapper and returned to the applicants with the next communication from the Office in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 609.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or an admission that the information cited is or is

considered to be, material to the patentability, or that no other material information exists. The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. [37 C.F.R. 1.97(g)]

The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is believed to filed within three months of the filing date of the application or the date of entry into the national stage of an international application or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever occurs last. [37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)]

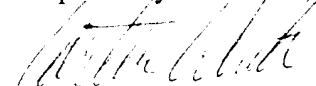
If for any reason this paper and the first office action cross in the mail, Applicants hereby request that the information be considered under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c) and that the appropriate fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2508, referencing Order No. 11836.0704.NPUS00.

Applicants hereby request for any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application. Applicants' representative hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 01-2508, referencing Order No. 11836.0704.NPUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

In order to promote the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby authorized to contact the undersigned by electronic mail. Please address all e-mail to: whitec@howrey.com.

Respectfully submitted,



Carter J. White

Patent Agent

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Date: 2/5/01